



# ***THE SOUTH FLORIDA GREEN***

Vol. 2

JULY, 1975

No. 4







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## ON OUR COVER

Looking across #9 & #18 Fairways at the beautiful Biltmore Golf Course

## SOUTH FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

Repeating what I said when Lou Oxnevad handed me the gavel, "I am very proud to be the president of this Association and I am looking forward in pleasant anticipation to working with the good men elected to the Board of Directors."

Reviewing a little, I will note that I served as an officer on the Board over the previous four years. During this period it was my pleasure to serve with four Presidents that I considered very capable. They were Paul Turcotte, Mack Parsons, Carl McKinney and Lou Oxnevad. I believe that the Association was most fortunate in that each of these Presidents had unique qualities that were needed by the Association at the time. Each of these men had their own goals for the Association. Some of the major objectives realized under their leadership were:

1. *To increase the membership.* In 1971 the membership list handed me a Secretary showed 33 Golf Course Superintendents. Our present membership roster lists over 100.
2. *To improve the attendance at our monthly meetings.* In some of the early meetings in 1971 we were unable to vote on some issues because there was not a quorum in attendance. Our meetings now regularly record 80 - 100 attending. To accomplish this we tried many things. Providing good educational programs, we believe, was the single most important thing we did that helped us realize this goal and also contributed greatly to increasing our membership.
3. *To have the State of Florida conduct a Turfgrass Survey.* This survey has been completed and we are advised that the results are to be published in September 1975.
4. *To publish a chapter newsletter.* The July 1975 issue of The South Florida Green completes two years of issues as the official publication of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.
5. *To have our Association sponsor an annual equipment show with research reports at the Agricultural Research Center at Fort Lauderdale, Florida.* We have had two of these meetings and both were deemed to be successful.

Since I was an active participant in the planning and implementation of these achievements you may now expect to see me working to consolidate them and to improve them where needed.

For the future, most of our goals evolve from our successes in the past. Three major objectives for our Association are:

1. To have the State of Florida provide consultative turfgrass service that is available to Golf Course Superintendents promptly and on an on-the-spot basis. The State of Georgia, with a very progressive program, has provided Turfgrass Specialists to our industry for years.
2. To construct three golf holes for research purposes in the South Florida area.
3. To have all eligible Class A Superintendents certified by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This we believe to be an important step in improving the professional image of golf course superintendents.

These objectives can be achieved with some work. I solicit the assistance and cooperation of the membership in their attainment and take the opportunity to thank you for awarding me the honor of serving you as president for the coming year.

*Mike Burger*

# **HIGH, LOW, THE AVERAGE JACK, AND THE GAME**

**Dave Buxbaum  
Miami Shores Country Club**

Every golf course superintendent must decide how his course should be set up from the golfer's standpoint. In other words, does he want the greens to putt fast or on the slow side, fairways narrow or wide, mowed short or medium height. What about rough? Should there be any, if so, how high?

We, as superintendents, know that the height of cut on all our mowers varies according to the season, weather conditions, certain maintenance programs, etc. But basically, from a golfer's view, nothing changes, they just want everything to their liking no matter the conditions.

I have found over the past ten years as a golfer and superintendent, that the preferences of golfers as to how a course should play are, in most cases, almost directly related to their handicaps, age, and ability. Since golf course memberships are composed of all ages and handicaps of from scratch or better to out of

sight, this puts the superintendent right in the middle. (Good thing we're used to being there.)

This little story I am about to relate illustrates this point, actually happened to me a few months ago at my course. I was having lunch in the snack bar when a foursome came in just making the turn. The group was composed of four older gentlemen with handicaps ranging from 16 to 22. They told me that, in their opinion, the course was in good shape, but the fairway grass was mowed too low and the greens were putting too fast, causing them to three putt quite a few. As they teed off #10, the group playing directly behind them came in. This group was composed of four players with handicaps of scratch to about 10. They too volunteered the course was in good shape, but they told me the fairways were mowed too high and the greens were too slow, resulting in a number of three putts. Now you know why it is not always wise for the Super to eat lunch at the clubhouse!

But seriously, this is what it boils down to. Low to medium handicappers like very fast greens with very little grain and with good hold-

ing qualities. They like to carry their approach shots all the way to the flag. They are not too choosy about the color of the green as long as it putts the way they like it.

Good players prefer fairway grass to be mowed close so that they can hit down or "pinch" the ball to impart backspin on it. If you are receiving complaints that your greens are hard and will not hold a shot, check your fairways. Could you lower the mower a little or maybe cut the fairways more often? Flying lies in the fairway take backspin off the ball and give the impression the greens are not holding.

Rough. Most good players like to play tight courses as long as the rough is not too high.

Middle to high handicap players dislike the fast greens. Most of them tend to jab the ball instead of stroking it and on fast greens this leads to three putts. They like wide fairways maintained with a higher cut and somewhat on the thatchy side so that their ball rests on the top of the grass where it can be scooped off with little chance of being hit "fat". They would prefer roughs to be practically nonexistent. Also, for some reason, higher handicap players, especially

(High-Low, cont. on Page 4)

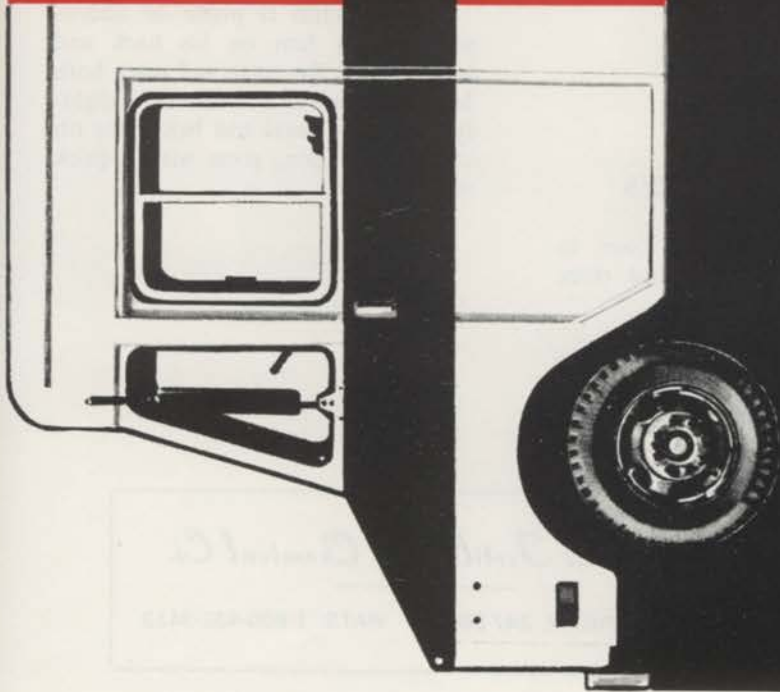
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## HIGH, LOW continued

women and older men, equate the color of a course with how good a condition it is in. If it is dark green all over, it is in "good shape." Unfortunately, we know this is not always true.

In setting up his course, a superintendent must analyze the entire operation. Here are a few of the many factors that must be considered. Is it a heavily played municipal operation where the object is to get as many golfers around as possible? Fast greens and heavy roughs slow play down. Is revenue a factor? Golfers don't like to play courses where they lose balls and shoot high scores. Is it a private or semi-private set-up? What is the average age? The average handicap? And lastly, how is your particular course laid out. Does it play tight enough because of trees or hazards and not require rough areas? Are the greens sharply contoured? If so, maintain them a bit on the slow side. No one likes to see his ball roll off the green when he putts.

A careful analysis of all factors involved and some changes in the way you have your course set up could result in more enjoyable rounds of golf on your course for the particular golfers that play there, or perhaps an increase in revenue for the owners. Either way, you win.



## FROM THE NATIONAL

### CGCS PROGRAM REDRAWN CERTIFICATION

Certification Program policies were modified and clarified by the Executive Committee, based upon a report by the Certification Committee. Highlights of the program changes include a two-year requirement as a Class A member of GCSAA rather than the previous three-year requirement, and a modification of the study materials. Other areas which received clarification included re-certification and retired certification policies.

With these exceptions, the program remains basically as it has been since 1971 when it was initiated. Continuing requirements include: 1) an applicant must be employed as a golf course superintendent; 2) an application form must be completed and forwarded to the headquarters office with appropriate administrative fees; 3) all applications will be verified by the headquarters office and this verification will be in effect for one year during which time all sections of the test must be successfully completed; 4) six hours will be permitted for the entire testing process; 5) a passing grade for each section will be 80 per cent; 6) applicants who do not successfully complete all sections may be re-tested as many times as is administratively possible during the year of verification; 7) Certified status will be in effect for five years from the date all requirements are met.

	Total Applications	Certified To Date
April 1, 1972	176	58
April 1, 1973	245	129
April 1, 1974	289	167
April 1, 1975	356	229



## HOOKS AND SLICES

The reason he wasn't born in America: nobody could find three wise men and a virgin.

Last year they were saying, "Don't trust anyone over 30." This year, we note, they are saying, "Don't trust anyone over 31."

## STRAIGHT SHOTS

Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence. Five were captured or imprisoned in the war that followed. Nine died of wounds or hardships. Twelve lost their homes. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Everyone of them were hunted. Most were driven into hiding. They were offered immunity, rewards, the return of their property or freedom of their loved ones to desert the cause. Not one did. Not one broke their pledge.

\*\*\*\*\*

Choking to death on food is the sixth largest cause of accidental death in the nation. Victims of potentially fatal choking can't breathe. They can't talk. Generally they turn gray-blue from lack of oxygen after a moment or two and they collapse. Until now, remedies for choking on food have not been reliable: pounding the victim on the back, reaching into the throat to dislodge the food, etc.

Here's how the "Heimlich Maneuver" works:

Grab the victim and stand behind him or her. Wrap your arms around the waist, allowing the choking victim's upper torso to hang forward.

Make a fist with one hand and grasp it with the other, placing both hands against the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust, expelling the air in the lungs.

Repeat several times if necessary, but it usually works the first time.

If the victim is prone or unconscious, turn him on his back and kneel astride the torso and place both hands on the victim's abdomen slightly above the naval and below the rib cage - and again, press with a quick upward thrust.



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## NEW OFFICERS



On July 15, 1975, the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association met at the Jack Nicklaus' home course, beautiful Lost Tree Country Club, and held their annual election. The new officers pictured above are: Front row, right to left, President Mike Barger, Secretary-Treasurer Larry Weber, Director Rudy Geiger, Director Bill Whittaker. Back row, right to left, Vice President George Cavanaugh, President Emeritus Lou Oxnevad and Director Tommy Burton.

Pictured below left with President Barger is Dr. Gene Nutter, Director of Landscape and Golf Course operations at Lake City Community College. Dr. Nutter was the guest speaker for the Educational Program and provided the assembly a fine presentation which covered the history of how the two year Turfgrass course was instituted at Lake City, a description of the one year golf course mechanics training course and a selection of books that are available pertaining to our profession.

Pictured below right is a collection of some of the swingers? that usually show up at our meetings.



CAN YOU TOP THIS?...



A Golf Course in New Jersey

Answer on page 8

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(Our Associate Editor is the author of the following article. The material was the topic of his speech during our Education Program for the meeting of August 12th at Bonaventure Country Club. This beguiling fanatic sometimes presents thoughts of such profound wisdom that we like to print it. I have known for some time that he is an acknowledged expert on Doo-Doo but Dew-Dew is new to me. Here it is, though. - Editor)

## DEW IS NOT DEW

by  
Tom Mascaro

Dew, in the popular sense, is water of condensation. Dew forms on a cold surface when the air is warm and water is present as humidity.

The "dew" we find on turfgrass areas is not water of condensation. This water is the plant sap being pumped out or "exudated" from the hydathodes. The hydathodes are relief mechanisms that transport excess water out of the plant system.

Relatively speaking, very little research has been done on this important function of turfgrass culture. In 1887, Dr. Marloth in Egypt studied the Tamarix (salt cedar) and found that it exuded salts and identified them.

Dr. J. K. Wilson, Cornell University, in 1923 found that the difference in dew on a turfgrass area was not due to soil moisture, but to the species that grew. He classified the different grasses in the following manner:

1. Bentgrasses, Bermudagrasses, and Poa Annua are prolific pumpers of exudate and rated them high.
2. The Bluegrass family (with the exception of Poa Annua) were medium pumpers of exudate.
3. Zoysiagrasses, fescuegrasses and ryegrasses were low pumpers and produced the least amount of exudated water.

This difference in the rate of exudation explains why we can observe patches of heavy "dew" on turfgrass areas that are not pure stands.

Dr. Endo, University of California in 1969 found that spores of dollar spot fungus grew sparingly in ordinary water, but when the spores were germinated in exudated water they grew sparingly to well and caused a variable amount of infection. In other

words, exudated water increased infection and disease. It induced acceleration and increase in spore germination.

Dr. G. N. Hoffer, Purdue University, in 1949 demonstrated that quickly available nitrogen was rapidly transported through the leaf tissue and into exudated water. The high salt content of the exudate caused leaf, stem and root burn.

With this background information we can begin to understand better why the United States Golf Association Green Section advocated syringing of greens many years ago. Their findings indicated that the Superintendent who syringed his greens in the early morning had less disease than the man who didn't.

This practice very simply diluted the concentration of the exudated water and rendered it harmless.

Exudated water contains glutamine, a form of sugar that is ideal for bacterial and fungal growth. If you touch your hand to exudated water you will feel the stickiness of this material which is identically the same as the plant sap.

The salt index of exudated water will rise sharply when quickly available plant foods, (especially nitrogen) are applied. If these salts are allowed to accumulate in the thatch or compacted soil surface root, stem, or lower leaf, burn may occur. The

potency of the exudate can be demonstrated by gathering a cupful from a well fertilized green and pouring it in one spot. A chemical burn will result.

These combinations of factors can and do have a profound effect upon the survival of turfgrasses under certain conditions. Until more research is conducted to supply more information, the wise turf manager will:

1. Practice early morning syringing to dilute exudated water.
2. Use sufficient water to wash the exudate into the soil. Aerify to insure water intake.
3. Use slowly available plant foods to minimize the salt concentration in the exudate. If quickly available plant foods are used, split the feeding into light amounts on a frequent basis.
4. Control thatch to minimize the accumulation of exudate. Frequent vertical cutting, light top dressing, dragging, brushing, all help to keep excess thatch under control.
5. PH is a factor that can be related to exudated water. The lower the PH, the more susceptible turfgrasses are to disease attack. Dusting (during periods of stress) with 5 to 10 lbs. hydrated lime per 1,000 sq. ft. when grass is dry, or

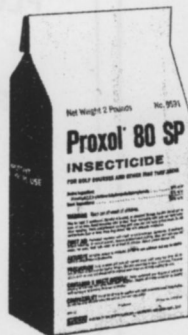
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## DEW IS NOT DEW continued

applying Dolomitic limestone 10 to 20 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. will change to PH in the thatch layer, which can become very acid.

I hope that this discussion "Dew is Not Dew" has given you a better understanding of this rather unrecognized subject.

Some will continue to call it "Dew", others will call it "Exudated Water". Another common name is "Guttated Water" or "Guttation Water". Poets will eternally call it "Fairy Rain". By whatever name we call this liquid that is exuded from the Hydathodes of the grass leaf, we

must always remember that this is a normal function of the plant. The turfgrass manager that recognizes this basic principle and adapts his management practices to it wisely, is the one who will produce superior putting surfaces for better golf.

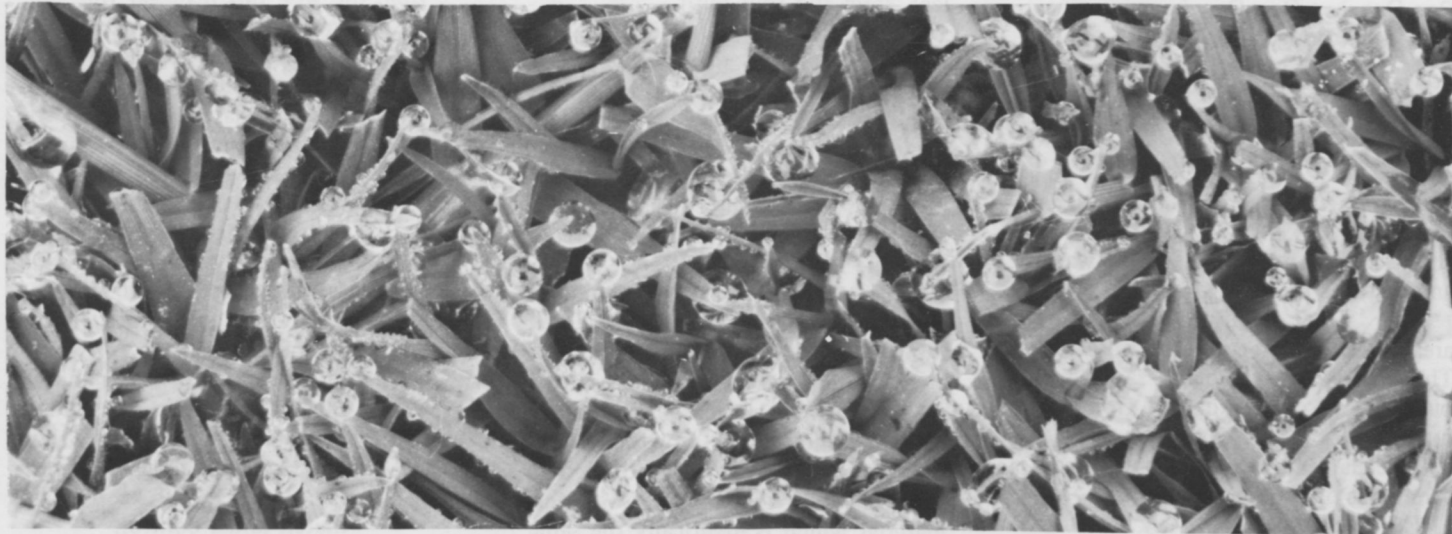


Photo shows pure exudate as it appears on a golf green. Note the precise arrangement of the droplets along the edge of the leaf. Note also the larger droplet of exudated water at the tip of the grass blade, especially where it has been cut off by the mower.

### Answer (Can You Top This?)

This is what happens to turfgrasses when an oil base paint is used to support your high school team.



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## RECOMMENDED READING

An impressive list of books and pamphlets are available this month from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.

*Bulletin No. 36G.* Titled: "Building Hobby Greenhouses" consists of 20 pages with illustrations. Price 35¢.

*Bulletin No. 38G.* Titled: "Principles for Protecting Wood Buildings from Decay" Methods to treat wood are described. Price \$1.05.

*A series of Instructional Manuals* designed to train supervisory personnel that would be of interest to Golf Course Superintendents. They are:

*97G Manual 301,* Job planning, walking and working surfaces and spaces, Fire Prevention, Electrical Hazards. Price \$1.95.

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## DAILY CHORE IS FEEDING TWO SIX-FOOT ALLIGATORS

Feeding two six foot alligators is a daily chore for 72-year-old Jack Anderson and his assistant Willie Brown.

But neither of the men are attendants at a zoo.

Anderson, superintendent at Indian Hills Golf Course and Brown attend to the daily appetites of Roscoe and his soul mate Oscoe at the couple's watery home at the north end of the course.

The gators, who were brought to Indian Hills from the Savannah in 1958 by the police, live in the murky depths of the water hazard near the fifth, sixth, and seventh holes.

While the daily menu for the two toothy reptiles is limited to hot dog or hamburger buns, Anderson admits some of the golfers throw in an occasional marshmallow or two for variety.

Anderson who managed his own golf course in Minnesota for 23 years confesses that he usually feeds the

'gators while standing on one of three bridges that cross the quarter-mile long lake.

"If I take my cart up to the water they get too close," Anderson laughs then adds that isn't what he likes.

Oscoe is especially aggressive if "little ones" are near, "like now," Anderson says, "and she won't even let Roscoe come to that end of the lake."

Showing more bravery than his friend, Brown walks to the waters edge and hand feeds the pair when its his turn to play "server".



Brown, who helped with construction of the golf course in 1939, remembers though when that wouldn't have been possible.

"A while back there was a third gator, Jim, but he was mean," Brown says.

Jim was removed to the more remote corners of St. Lucie County for everyone's safety.

When asked why they feed the gators, the men replied with a smile, "They look forward to it," and so, apparently, do the feeders.



Jack Anderson, superintendent at Indian Hills Golf Course, tosses hot dog and hamburger buns to two friendly alligators daily. Anderson wouldn't estimate how many of the six or eight pack buns the reptiles consume each week. "Just say a quantity," he chuckled.

## COMING EVENTS

South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Meetings:

Bonaventure Country Club  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
August 12, 1975

Boca West Country Club  
Boca Raton, Florida  
September 9, 1975

Pinetree Country Club  
Delray Beach, Florida  
October 14, 1975

Doral Country Club  
Miami, Florida  
November, 1975

J.D.M.P.G.A.  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida  
December, 1975

Florida Turf-grass Association  
Conference and Show  
October 12-15, 1975  
Orlando, Florida

Golf Course Superintendents Association  
of America  
Conference and Show  
February 8-13, 1976  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



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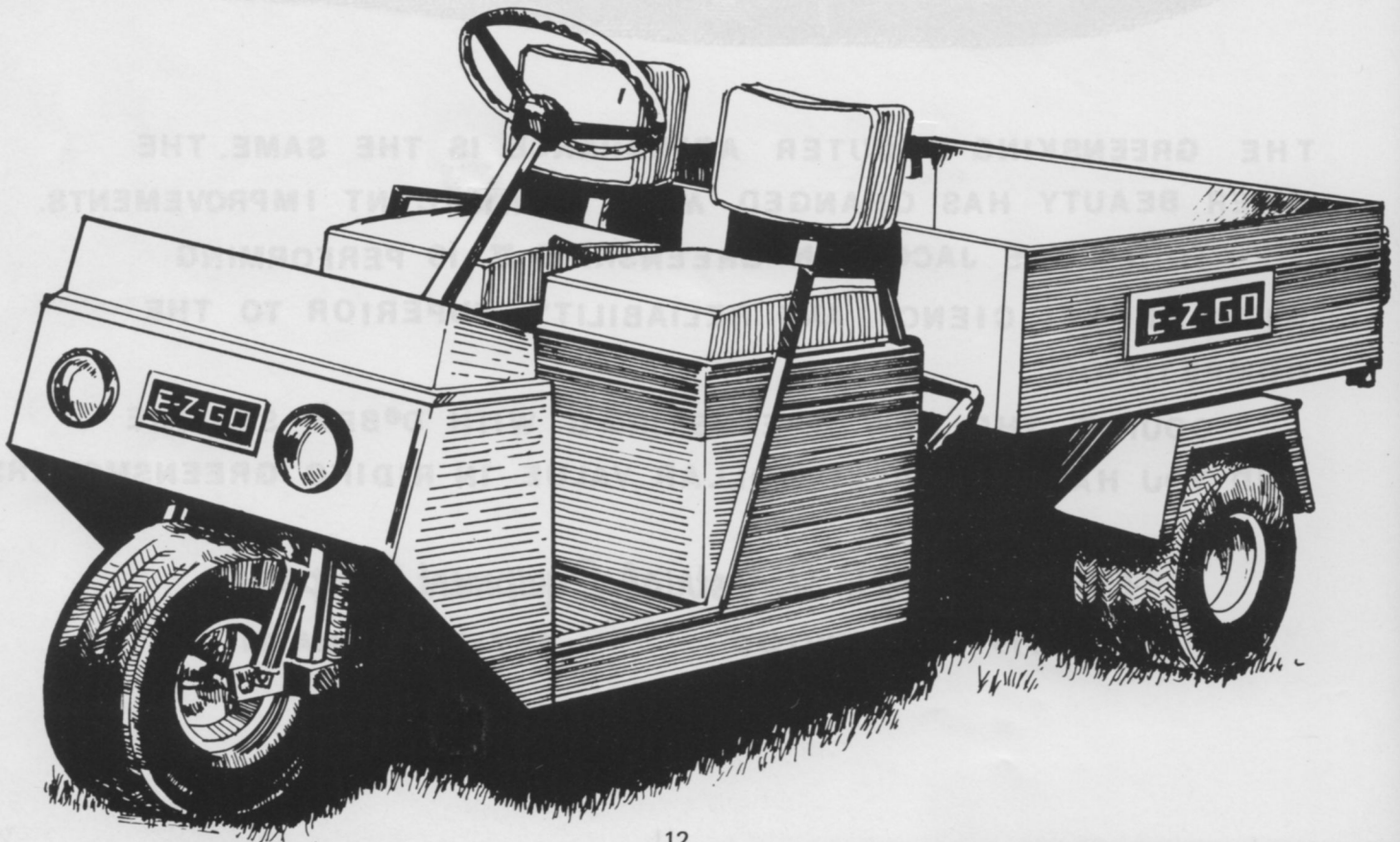
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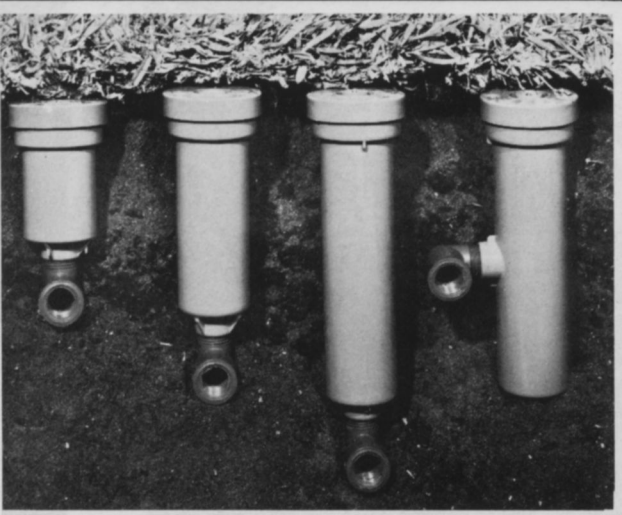
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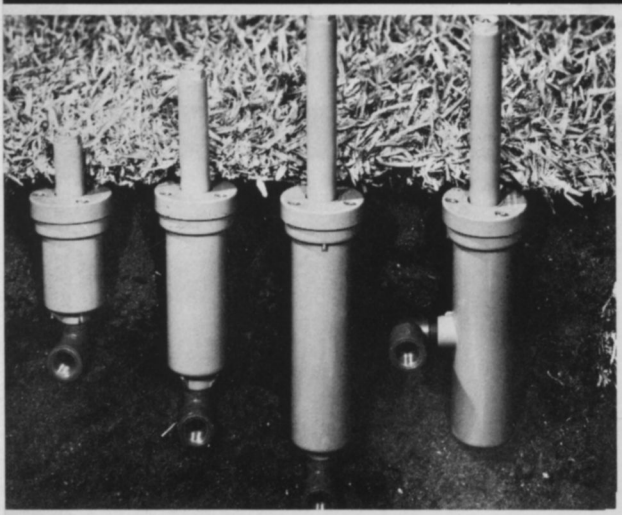
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## AND LET THEM GO!!

STL'S "GARDEN" OF GL SERIES SPRINKLER HEADS ARE EACH ENGINEERED SPECIFICALLY TO FILL ALL TURFGRASS NEEDS. FOR INSTANCE:

The "GL 67" with a 2" POP-UP is perfect for low cut areas. (Turfgrasses that are maintained below one inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch). The pop-up riser will extend well above the height of cut when operating. In the down position, the sprinkler is virtually invisible, even at these low heights.

The "GL 74" POPS-UP 4". This unique in-between head is perfectly suited for all turfgrasses maintained in the 1 inch to 3 inch range.

The "GL 71" is master of all turfgrasses. Its piston rises a full 6 inches above the ground. Its design lends itself to any area, whether maintenance is of a general nature or intensively maintained.

Now Architects, Designers and Installers of irrigation equipment can put in a complete, highly efficient lawn irrigation system without visible signs of its existence--except when it is turned on. The unique design of the **SAFE-T-LAWN "GL" SERIES** of sprinklers completely eliminates ugly risers, dangerous concrete doughnuts and costly hand trimming maintenance. **THEY CREATE A BEAUTIFUL UNBLEMISHED LAWN WITH AN INVISIBLE IRRIGATIONS SYSTEM.** The "GL" Series are so versatile they can be used in any area that requires an efficient stationary spray head. Home lawns, commercial type lawns, parking lots and highway media strips are just a few applications for this unique pop-up sprinkler.

### OTHER OUTSTANDING FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Choice of Side or Bottom Inlet
- Servicing Without Removal of Head
- Variety of Nozzle Sizes & Patterns

**SAFE-T-LAWN, inc.**

**Irrigation Equipment Manufacturers**

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